

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a telephonic interview conducted on October 28, 2008. During the interview, the outstanding rejections based upon Lin, and Applicants' Amendment mailed September 22, 2008, were discussed. The Examiner acknowledged that independent claims 35 and 51, as amended in the September 22, 2008 Amendment, did require a certain order of steps—specifically, washing and drying a metal nano-powder prior to coating—and that Lin did not recite this particular order of steps. However, the Examiner further noted that the specification of the application also described filtering the powder prior to drying, and requested Applicants to include the step of filtering in the amended claims. Filtering prior to coating would further distinguish Lin. The Examiner also noted that Lin failed to describe a specific coating amount, and suggested that including a numerical limitation on the coating weight could also distinguish Lin.

Applicants have now adopted the Examiner's suggestions and present amended claims by way of an RCE filing. In particular, independent claims 35 and 51 have been amended to recite the step of "filtering and washing" the powder prior to drying. Support for this amendment is found, for example, at paragraphs [0016] and [0017] of the specification. New claim 51 recites a process for producing a metal nano-powder that includes coating the powder with 1-5 wt.%, based upon the metal, of a chemical reagent. New claim 52 depends on claim 51, and requires coating the powder with two chemical reagents, where the amount of the primary chemical reagent is from 1-5 wt.%, based upon the metal, and the amount of the secondary chemical reagent is from 0.1-2.5 wt.%, based upon the metal. Support for these new claims is found, for example, at paragraph [0033] of the specification.

Claims 35-42, 44-46, and 48-53 are pending. Because none of the cited references (Lin, Khasin, Yadav), alone or in combination, describes or suggests the claimed process, the outstanding rejections should be withdrawn, and a notice of allowance issued.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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